(a) what is the percentage of perinatal mortality due to congenital deformities;

(b) whether any survey has been made; and

(c) whether causes of malformation have been identified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI): (a) and (b) Congenital malformations constitute 8 per cent of the perinatal mortality in India as estimated from data available from hospital based studies (ICMR 1976). A recent study in Hyderabad revealed that congenital malformations contributed to 17.8 per cent of perinatal mortality (1982).

(c) Although no specific cause has been identified to the causation of congenital malformation, however it has been suggested that they are inherited on a multi-factoral basis in which environmental and heriditary factors are considered most important. Virus infection, texoplasmosis and ingestion of drugs during the early months of pregnancy also play a significant role in the causation of congenital malformations in India.

Detection of Toxins in Food

341. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any methods have been evolved to detect toxins in food and to prescribe guidelines for proper storage and handling of commodities;

(b) whether there are any agencies entrusted with research work on the subject; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and whether Government have taken steps to educate consumers on this dangerous aspect of their daily food?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (MISS. KUMUD BEN M. JOSHI): (a) Specific methods have been evolved for detection of different toxins found in various items of food. Guidelines have been issued to All Food (Health) Authorities for proper storage and hygienic conditions in handling of food items.

(b) and (c) Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi and Industrial Toxicology Research Centre, Lucknow have carried out research work on toxins found in Kesari Dal, Argemone Oil-Seeds, Aflatoxins in various commodities. The State Governments have been advised from time to time to educate consumers about ill effects of toxic foods.

Population Stabilization

342. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what specific measures are being incorporated in the Seventh Five Year Plan to achieve population stabilization;

(b) whether Government contemplate strengthening and expanding the existing rural and urban infrastructure; if so, the manner in which it is proposed to be done; and

(c) whether Government are contemplating to provide monetary and other incentives for promotion of Family Welfare Programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI): (a) to (c) The Seventh Five Year Plan for Health and Family Welfare Sector has not yet been formulated.

Katihar-Barauni broad gauge line

343. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that conversion of Katihar-Barauni section into broad gauge in N. E. Railway was to be completed during the Seventh Plan but now it is likely to be completed during the current year, if so,

at what cost and when the decision to complete the project during the current year was taken; and

(b) whether the existing broad gauge trains bound for Gauhati are likely to be diverted via this short route?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY): (a) It would be possible to complete the entire work with all the required facilities in the Seventh Plan only. However, efforts have been intensified in the past few months to enable completion of conversion of track into BG during this year itself with residual works to be done in the later years, subject to availability of additional funds.

(b) At present there is only one BG train going to Gauhati and that is 155/156 Tinsukia mail and there is no proposal to divert this train via the Katihar route.

Proposed line in Iron-ore belt in Bihar

344. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the position of proposed Baraiburu-Manoharpur Ona to Chirira railway line in the iron ore belt of Bihar; and

(b) what is the estimated cost and by when work is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY): (a) and (b) Survey for rail line from Manoharpur to Gua (48 kms.) was carried out in 1953-54. It is now estimated to cost about Rs. 30 crores. Chirira is near Ankua which falls on this alignment. From Gua to Barajamda rail line exists. Another survey from Barajamda to Tatiba near Baraiburu (7.5 kms.) was carried in 1976-78. It is now estimated to cost about Rs. 4 crores.

Due to severe constraint of resources, these rail lines will have to wait for consideration till resources position improves.

Use of saccharine in Food Products

345. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in the United States it is compulsory for food products containing saccharine to carry statutory warning to the effffect that this product contains saccharine which has been determined to cause cancer in laboratory animals;

(b) whether it is a fact that in our country a Statutory Committee on Prevention of Food Adulteration had suggested a ban on the use of saccharine in carbonated water also but it still continues to be so used;

(c) the time by when such a suggestion was made; and

(d) what are the names of items in which use of sacharine has been banned and of those, including soft drinks, where its use is permitted and it is being used, giving specific reasons for the use thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (MISS KUMUD BEN M. JOSHI): (a) Yes.

(b) to (d) Use of saccharine is governed by the standards laid down in P.F.A. Rules.

The Central Committee for Food Standards at its meeting held in February, 1984 has recommended ban on the use of saccharine in carbonated water. The recommendations of the Committee are under consideration.

Losses due to Breach in the Bhakra Canal

346. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state the estimated losses suffered by Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan due to the recent breach in the Bhakra Canal on account of repairs and for making provision for drinking water, etc.?